



## Briefing from the Superintendent

Christiansted National Historic Site was established in February of 1952 to preserve the wharf area and related buildings as fine examples of the town's economy and way of life in the Danish times. The seven-acre site consist of 6 historical buildings, Fort Christiansvaern (1749), Steeple Building (1753), Danish West India & Guinea Company Warehouse (1749), Custom House (1830), Scale House (1856), Government House (1830's). From 1952 to 1972 the Municipal and Territorial governments of St. Croix and the Virgin Islands, used the buildings and grounds for administrative purposes. For example, the Fort was a Police station, Fire station, Court - house, and prison. The grounds were used as parking lots to accommodate the people using the services during that time period. In 1998, the National Park Service implemented its landscape plan that called for the removal of the two parking lots and returned the grounds to open space. One parking lot was modified and is serving as parking for visitors to the historic site. Special events such as the St. Croix Half Iron Man Triathlon, Veteran Day ceremony, heritage & cultural shows, are common on the newly landscape grounds.

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### **Current Park Status:**

- In September of 2001, the National Park Service purchased the Danish West India & Guniea Company Warehouse the (Old Post Office Building) from the United States Postal Service for \$800,000. Our plans are to convert this building into a Slavery Museum dating back to one of its original use from 1749 to 1802. This project is estimated at ten million dollars.
- Christiansted NHS is currently recruiting persons interested in volunteering their services to the park. Our VIP program (Volunteer in the Park Program) was established to assist the park Interpretative staff in welcoming our visitors and providing information on the park.
- The Steeple Building has a new look; Mahogany Pews were installed to give the museum the feel of being in the Lutheran Church during the 1753 period, when the building was the Danish state church.
- The Christiansted Boardwalk project is expected to start on the south side of the fort sometime next year. We are working with the territorial government on how this project will benefit the park and the town. We are look forward to the project and expected benefits to the area.

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For further information on issues and activities at Christiansted NHS contact:

**Joel A. Tutein**, Superintendent  
**National Park Service**  
Christiansted NHS/ Buck Island Reef NM/  
Salt River Bay NHP & EP  
2100 Church Street, #100  
Christiansted, Virgin Islands 00820  
(340) 773-1460 ext 222  
[CHRI\\_Superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:CHRI_Superintendent@nps.gov)

